| | Connections as on 31.3.2003 | Market Share as on 31.3.2003 | Connections as on 31.3.2004 | Market Share as on 31.3.2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Fixed line* | | |
| BSNL | 35.91 (million) | 86.54% | 36.11 (million) | 84.29% |
| MTNL | 4.63 (million) | 11.17% | 4.37 (million) | 10.19% |
| | | Mobile connection | | |
| BSNL | 22.98 (lakh) | 17.68% | 55.36 (lakh) | 16.4% |
| MTNL | 3.47 (lakh) | 2.67% | 4.63 (lakh) | 1.4% |

(c) and (d) The Government operators are also offering a number of added features at competitive rates in both fixed and wireless segments of telecom services. In order to become more competitive, both MTNL & BSNL are taking several initiatives including introduction of new services, modernizing and upgrading the existing network, offering competitive tariffs and improving customer care etc.

(e) and (f) Last telephone directory was published in 1999 (Main issue) and 2000 (Supplementary). Tender for printing of Telephone Directory for the Years 2003-2008 were issued. But thereafter many tender conditions were required to be changed and it became necessary to cancel that tender and issue fresh tender with the revised tender conditions. The old tender could not be cancelled as one of the party has gone to the court and matter is *subjudice.*

Directory services in Delhi are also available on Internet as well as in CD in addition to free DIRECTORY service on "197".

**Sale of BSNL recharge coupons in Karnataka**

2239. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many BSNL prepaid coupons are being sold, on an average, every month in Karnataka;

(b) whether the BSNL has tied up with the Department of Posts to market its recharge coupons in Karnataka;

(c) if so, how many post offices have been selected for this purpose in Karnataka;

(d) how many of them are in Bangalore and in Bangalore Rural District; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal to extend this facility to more post offices in other cities of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, on an average 4,75,000 prepaid recharge coupons of mobile service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are being sold every month in Karnataka.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 468 post offices have been selected for this purpose in Karnataka.

(d) There are 252 such post offices in Bangalore urban district and 40 such post offices in Bangalore rural district.

(e) The scheme is being extended to other districts of Karnataka progressively.

**Development of postal service**

2240. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the action taken to develop the business of postal services to make them more competitive and financially viable organization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Some of the steps taken by the Department to develop the business of postal services to make them more competitive and financially viable are:

1. A Business Development Directorate was set up in 1996 for focused management of Premium Products and Services. Business targets are allotted to Circles, which are monitored every month. Premium products such as Speed Post, Business Post and Express Parcel Post have been introduced to compete with the couriers in the mail and express market segment. For large volume customers of